

EN — LARRY ROMANOFF: Biological Warfare in Action — Chapter 6 — Pfizer's Perfectly-Timed Epidemic

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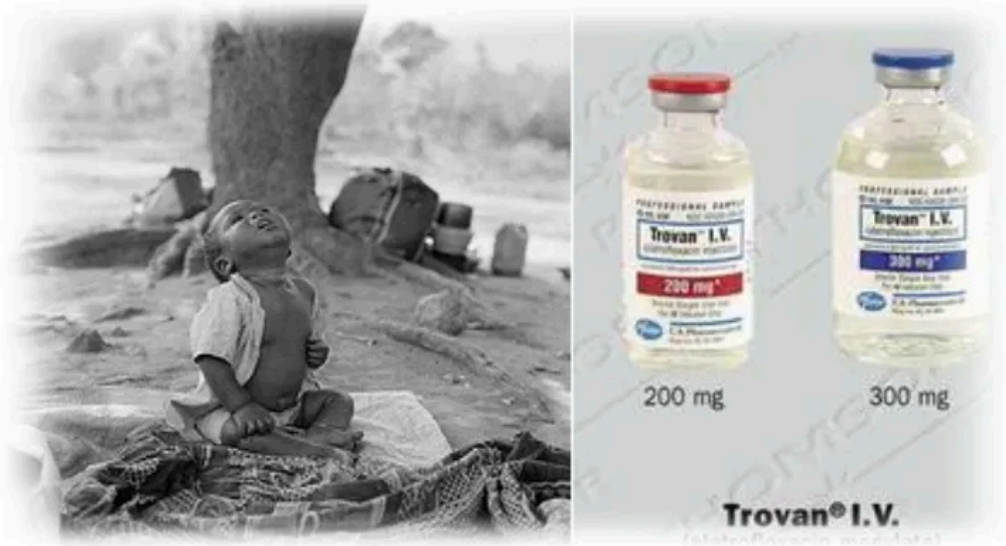
6. Chapter 6 – [Pfizer's Perfectly-Timed Epidemic](#)

By [Larry Romanoff](#)



Manhattan, New York USA – July 9, 2011: Pfizer letter sign on the building's Headquarters. Pfizer's is the largest pharmaceutical company in the world. [Source](#)

The WHO, Pfizer, and Nigerian Meningitis



Source

It is by now well-known that many new drugs are accompanied by serious side-effects such as irreversible liver damage, and are often fatal to children. In 1996 **Pfizer developed a new antibiotic called Trovan** to treat a variety of infections – meningitis being one example. Many of these new antibiotics are very powerful and with side effects that normally make them too dangerous to use for children, often causing permanent liver damage, joint disease and many other debilitating complications. Inexplicably, Pfizer decided to perform test trials on infants. However, Pfizer had the standard problem that FDA certification in the US required clinical trials on humans, and these are almost impossible to conduct in developed countries because no parents are willing to allow their children to take part in such risky clinical trials, to say nothing of the lawsuits resulting from trials gone bad. **Therefore, these pharma companies tend almost universally to take their trials to poor countries in Africa, Asia and South America where the laws are unprepared and the people don't understand the risks of untested and unapproved drugs. The American (and European) pharma companies therefore transformed the developing world into an enormous test laboratory that carries no financial liability.**



A doctor vaccinates a child against meningitis in Dakwa village, Bwari, Nigeria. Source

As luck would have it, at precisely the moment when Pfizer was ready to commence clinical trials of this new drug, Nigeria was suddenly and inexplicably hit with one of the worst meningitis epidemics in history. And of course, Pfizer was there to help the Nigerian government deal with the outbreak. But Pfizer didn't exactly deal with the outbreak; what it did was to conduct a reprehensible clinical trial for its new medication, on a group of victims unlikely to complain. Rather than "helping" as it claimed, Pfizer gathered a trial group and a control group, giving one group Pfizer's new medication and a competitor's product to the other. **It quickly became obvious that the Americans were not on a humanitarian mission but were saving the expense of live trials. After experimenting on about 200 victims, they gathered their test information and left – right in the middle of the meningitis epidemic, without having saved any lives. The Nigerian government tallied the deaths at about 11,000.**



The Infectious Diseases Hospital in Kano, Nigeria, was treating meningitis patients in 1996 when Pfizer administered the experimental drug Trovan to children. (2000 Photos By Michael Williamson — The Washington Post) [Source](#)

That would have been the end, except that a controversy erupted soon after about the relationship between Pfizer's need for test trials and the meningitis outbreak. As it happened, the **WHO was in Nigeria immediately prior to that time on another of its "life-saving" vaccination programs, this time for polio, and the timing and location of the meningitis outbreak apparently matched perfectly the WHO's polio vaccination program. And of course, it perfectly matched Pfizer's need for large numbers of test subjects.** There were lawsuits and payments, accusations and denials, but to this day Nigeria refuses WHO entry into the country and will not participate in any further "humanitarian" aid from the UN or the WHO.

We cannot definitively say that the WHO deliberately created the meningitis epidemic for the benefit of Pfizer's tests, but it's the only theory that fits all the known facts and it's the kind of thing the WHO appears to do on a regular basis. We should note Pfizer's intention to market Trovan in the US and Europe after its trials on these African children, but the FDA refused to approve Trovan for American children due to the severe dangers.



Source

Pfizer's behavior after these "field trials" ended was, if anything, even more reprehensible. The lawsuits were based on claims that Pfizer did not have proper consent from parents to use an experimental drug on their children, the use of which not only left many children dead but others with brain damage or paralysis. Pfizer eventually reached a settlement with the Nigerian state government to pay \$75m in damages and to create a fund of \$35m to compensate the victims. This, after what the *Guardian* described as "a 15-year legal battle against Pfizer over a fiercely controversial drug trial". Pfizer not only resisted to the end, forcing the poor families through 15 years of hell before finally relenting, but resorted to extortion and blackmail of Nigerian government officials in attempts to avoid making any payments to the families of the tiny victims of its illegal drug trial. The UK *Guardian* reported that leaked US government diplomatic cables revealed that **"Pfizer hired investigators to look for evidence of corruption against the Nigerian attorney general in an effort to persuade him to drop the legal action"**, with the apparent full knowledge and assistance of the US State Department.

The Guardian stated the diplomatic cables recorded meetings between Pfizer's country manager, **Enrico Liggeri**, and US officials at the Abuja embassy on 9 April 2009, stating, "According to Liggeri, Pfizer had hired investigators to uncover corruption links to federal attorney general Michael Aondoakaa to expose him and put pressure on him to drop the federal cases. He said Pfizer's investigators were passing this information to local media." *The Guardian* also reported there

was no suggestion or evidence Nigeria's attorney general was swayed by this pressure. Pfizer of course claimed the entire notion was "preposterous", **but we can assume the cables – which were classified as "Confidential" – didn't lie.**

It seems Pfizer was dissembling in all its statements, not only with claims of government approval and parental knowledge, but their claim a Nigerian doctor was in charge and directed the experiments. The government's study found the local doctor was the director "in name only" and most often was not even informed of the procedures of the study and was typically "kept in the dark". As well **Pfizer used the fake letter from a non-existent department to obtain FDA approval for these clinical trials.** Pfizer finally admitted the forged letter was "incorrect", but I'm not sure that is the most appropriate adjective to use. Pfizer also made the infuriatingly dishonest claim that its antibiotic "Trovan demonstrated the highest survival rate of any treatment at the hospital. Trovan unquestionably saved lives." Well, maybe, **but the data on which Pfizer based this claim were the fact that in one location five patients died after using Pfizer's drug while six patients died after using another medication, with no data as to infection severity or anything else. At best, an empty and fundamentally dishonest claim.**

To deflect the issue of Pfizer's Trovan being lethal to children, the company claimed that the international body Doctors Without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières) were administering Pfizer's drug in their own large treatment program, a claim MSF vehemently denied, saying, "We have never worked with this family of antibiotic. We don't use it for meningitis. That is the reason why we were shocked to see this trial in the hospital." **It was Pfizer's Liggeri who claimed the lawsuits against Pfizer "were wholly political in nature", and Liggeri as well who concocted the accusation that MSF had administered Pfizer's Trovan to children.**

In 2006 the **Washington Post** reported on a lengthy Nigerian government study that concluded Pfizer violated international law by testing its unapproved drug on children with brain infections. The Post apparently obtained a copy of the confidential report which had been hidden away for five years, and which stated **Pfizer had never received authorisation from the government for its clinical trial, the apparent authorisation letter having been forged on the letterhead of a non-existent department and backdated to a date prior to the study.** According to the Post's article, the government claimed Pfizer's 'humanitarian effort' was **"an illegal trial of an unregistered drug, and a clear case of exploitation of the ignorant."** [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

The American response was not one of shame for participating in this fraud, nor did the State Department condemn Pfizer for either conducting the drug trials or attempting the extortion and blackmail. Instead, **the US ambassador condemned the leak of US embassy cables, as if publicly revealing a crime constituted a worse action than the crime itself.** The State Department rushed the high moral ground to condemn “endangering innocent people” and “sabotaging peaceful relations between nations”, ignoring the facts that Pfizer’s trials did far more to ‘endanger innocent people’ and ‘sabotage relations’ than could be done by the revelation of a crime. **But in the eyes of the US government, Americans do not commit crimes, and in any case the victims weren’t white.** The cables further claimed Pfizer settled only because legal and ‘investigative’ fees had been costing the company more than \$15 million per year, which leads one to wonder what occurs in the minds of these people who will spend \$15 million a year for 15 years, to avoid paying half that sum to compensate lives they destroyed.



Source

And there is still more. We have seen so many documented examples of the US courts assuming jurisdiction where they have none, agreeing to try cases without any US involvement that occurred wholly outside the US, in flagrant violations of international law, and indicative only of imperial arrogance. But **when Nigeria attempted to file claims against Pfizer in the US, the American courts refused to hear the cases, oddly claiming they had no jurisdiction.** And this isn’t the first time the US government, the State Department and the US courts have circled the wagons to protect a US multinational by closing the courts. [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#)

In 2004 and 2007, the Nigerian media carried reports which were heavily suppressed in US and Western media that the country was refusing to permit UN

health authorities to carry out further administration of polio vaccines. The government adamantly blamed the WHO for having initiated the meningitis epidemic with their polio vaccination campaign, which occurred immediately prior to, and in the same areas as, the meningitis outbreak. Nigerian leaders were also concerned that polio and other foreign vaccines were deliberately contaminated with sterilising and other agents, as occurred in the Philippines and other nations at around the same time. In much of Africa, there appears to be little remaining of the trust that once existed in international agencies and US and European pharma companies. Today, they are viewed primarily as imperial predators with a distinctly anti-human agenda, or at least an agenda that is anti non-white. The portions of Nigeria and other African nations that do still permit vaccinations now insist these be prepared in a trusted non-Western country with no involvement of the WHO or other Western agencies.



Source

Many nations today insist the WHO is a tool to reduce Muslim populations, a claim that is increasingly difficult to dismiss as simple paranoia, and in fact Nigeria also discovered sterilants in WHO vaccines in that country that were clearly capable of preventing fertility in women. The Western media steadfastly ignore the body of evidence supporting these claims and suspicions, and focus instead on a moralistic concern that “the world might be slipping in its efforts to wipe out polio”, categorising the valid concerns of so many nations as ignorant and uninformed suspicion. The Western media of course are all reading from the

same page as the perpetrators of this outrage, **and the more damning reports have all seemingly been removed from the Internet.**

We also have the ever-present corporate apologists, weaving their tapestries of misinformation attempting to irreversibly confuse an issue with irrelevancies and so as to place doubts in the minds of the public. One perennial favorite is a claim that **“these attacks on pharmaceutical companies could encourage countries to enact legislation that would lower drug profits**, which in turn could hamper the development of new medications”. This foolish statement from **Roger Bate, a “fellow” at the International Policy Network, which is a lobby group for big pharma, funded by the usual Foundations and corporations**, and dutifully reported by **London’s Daily Telegraph** in its campaign to confuse the uninformed public. The statement is actually rather clever, suggesting that our condemnation of the atrocities and illegalities of big pharma are somehow unjustified violent “attacks” on undeserving corporations.



Hajara, photographed in 2007, survived the trials but became deaf afterwards and is unable to speak. [Source](#)

In the case of Pfizer and its Nigerian Trovan trials, The Telegraph gives us an added incentive to sympathise with big pharma by telling us – **without evidence or documentation** – that **“the Nigerian government’s motives (in condemning Pfizer) have also been questioned”**, the issue being morphed from reprehensible drug trials resulting in death of children into one of an untrustworthy government with questionable political motives. Thus will the Western media will spin and weave until truth in all its forms disappears from the landscape forever.

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Mr. Romanoff's writing has been translated into 32 languages and his articles posted on more than 150 foreign-language news and politics websites in more than 30 countries, as well as more than 100 English language platforms. Larry Romanoff is a retired management consultant and businessman. He has held senior executive positions in international consulting firms, and owned an international import-export business. He has been a visiting professor at Shanghai's Fudan University, presenting case studies in international affairs to senior EMBA classes. Mr. Romanoff lives in Shanghai and is currently writing a series of ten books generally related to China and the West. He is one of the contributing authors to Cynthia McKinney's new anthology 'When China Sneezes'. (Chap. 2 — Dealing with Demons).

His full archive can be seen at

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NOTES

[1] **Panel Faults Pfizer in '96 Clinical Trial In Nigeria**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/06/AR2006050601338.html>

[2] Secret report surfaces showing that Pfizer was at fault in Nigerian drug tests

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1471980/>

[3] Nigerian Families Sue Pfizer

<https://www.science.org/content/article/nigerian-families-sue-pfizer>

[4] Pfizer pays out to Nigerian families of meningitis drug trial victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/11/pfizer-nigeria-meningitis-drug-compensation>

[5] Pfizer: Nigeria drug trial victims get compensation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14493277>

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